Maintenance of Village Roads in the Muvattupuzha Taluk.

60. MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha*) :

(*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state why several of the village roads in the Muvattupuzha taluk which used to be maintained in the past years were not maintained in 1098 ?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to arrange for the speedy repair of these village roads which were not maintained in 1098 ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) :

(*a*) This was done with a view to utilise the maintenance grant for the conversion of some of the more important and frequented village roads into cartable roads. In 1098 alone, about 14 miles of such village roads in the Muvattupuzha sub-division were so converted into cartable roads.

(*b*) Yes.

Renewal of the Abkari Contract with Mr. Nadar.

61. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is true that the contract for the three taluks of Parur, Alangad and Kunnatnad, as also Shertallai, has again been given to Mr. Nadar without a Government notification or a public sale ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : If the member refers to the next biennial contract, that is, for 1,100 and 1,101 M. E., the answer is in the negative.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : Will the Government be pleased to say whether it is true that the contract for the three taluks of Parur, Alengad and Kunnatnad, as also Shertallai, has been given to Mr. Nadar without a Government notification or public sale for the years 1098 and 1099, and if so, why ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : This question was answered at a previous session when it was stated that, on a fair calculation of the reasonable rentals, the contract for these taluks was given to Mr. Nadar.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : Was any notification put up ?

PRESIDENT : It has been answered at a previous session and you may refer to that answer.

Monopoly System and Sale of Salt in Trivandrum Depôt.

62. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) what the cause for the abolition of the monopoly system in regard to the supply and sale of salt in the Trivandrum Depôt was ;

(*b*) why the storage and sale of salt by Government were restored in the same depôt last year ;

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

(*c*) whether a recognition of the evils of the supply and sale system by an individual contractor was not the cause of the revival of the Government sales in the above depôt; and

(*d*) whether the salt concerned has been analysed with a view to see whether it is fit for human consumption, and if not, whether the Government will be so good as to order such analysis?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Government are not aware of the introduction of the monopoly system in the Trivandrum Depôt at any time.

(*b*) The system of storage and sale of salt by Government was restored in the depôt from the 1st Vrischikam, 1097, as it was found that owing to the closure of the depôt the price of salt in Trivandrum had risen.

(*c*) The answer is in the negative.

(*d*) Only salt fit for human consumption is sent to the depôt for sale.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What was the system that prevailed in the Port Depôt, Trivandrum, before the present system of sale and storage was restored in 1097?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The old system was stopped in Makaram 1095.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): With reference to part (*g*) how was it tested?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The Excise Commissioner has satisfied himself.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): How was it tested? If so, when and where?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): This has been answered at a previous session, when it was stated that the salt was tested by the Chemical Examiner.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): My question is how it was tested.

PRESIDENT: It has already been answered.

Salt Manufacture.

63. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the area under salt cultivation up to the end of 1093 and up to the end of 1098, respectively;

(*b*) the increase in the output of salt during these five years;

(*c*) what the average yield per acre is;

(*d*) whether there is no scope for the further development of the salt industry in south Travancore;

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly